

Writing your Dissertation with L^AT_EX

A Brief Tutorial

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About this presentation

Goals:

- to give an overview of what you can do with \LaTeX
- to give an overview of what your dissertation should contain

***Disclaimer:** this is not a complete reference to \LaTeX . There are many good online references—go and read them (I give some links here). This is neither a lesson on how to write MsC dissertations—talk to your advisor before believing anything I say.*



Outline

Part I The \LaTeX Typesetting System

Part II Writing your Dissertation

Part I

The \LaTeX Typesetting System

Part I

- ① Introduction
- ② Typesetting
- ③ Mathematics
- ④ Bibliography
- ⑤ Other Useful Stuff



References

The (Not So) Short Introduction to $\text{\LaTeX}2_{\epsilon}$

<http://tobi.oetiker.ch/lshort/lshort.pdf>

\LaTeX — A document preparation system

<http://latex-project.org/>

LaTeX Tutorials — A Primer <http://www.tug.org/twg/mactex/tutorials/ltxprimer-1.0.pdf>



Outline

- 1 Introduction
 - Basics
 - Compiling and Viewing
- 2 Typesetting
- 3 Mathematics
- 4 Bibliography
- 5 Other Useful Stuff

What is typesetting?

- 1 The text is **entered** into the computer
- 2 The input text is **formatted** into lines, paragraphs and pages
- 3 The output text is **displayed** on the computer screen
- 4 The final output is **printed**

What is typesetting?

- 2 The input text is **formatted** into lines, paragraphs and pages

What is typesetting?

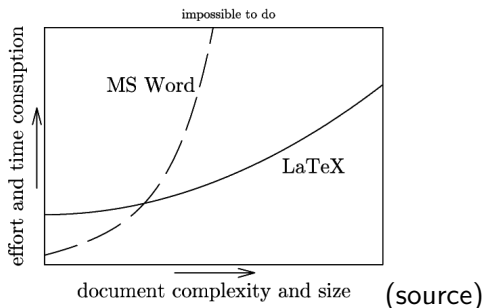
- 2 The input text is **formatted** into lines, paragraphs and pages

In other words:

if you want WYSIWYG, you're in the wrong lecture!

Why L^AT_EX?

- Separate **content** from **presentation**
- Get **beautiful** and **complex** documents with **little effort**



- And see [this StackExchange entry](#).
- Have you tried writing **equations** using a standard word processor?

TEX and L^AT_EX

- TEX is a typesetting system created by Donald Knuth
 - Created for technical writing
 - In particular for writing math
 - And it is also a [programming language](#)
- L^AT_EX is a set of [high-level macros](#) on top of TEX

Hello World

```
\documentclass{article}

\begin{document}
  This is my \emph{first} document
  prepared in \LaTeX.
\end{document}
```



Common file formats

- `.tex` your source file(s), in plain text
- `.dvi` the **device independent file format** binary files, with a description of the visual layout
- `.ps` the **PostScript vector graphics programming language** (mostly used as a page description language)
- `.pdf` the **Portable Document Format** binary files, with a description of the document layout (alternative to DVI)



Compiling (the traditional way)

You can compile using

```
> latex mainfile.tex
```

which outputs the `mainfile.dvi` DVI file. This file can be viewed with

```
> xdvi mainfile.dvi
```

And can be converted to PostScript for viewing and printing with

```
> dvips mainfile.dvi
```

Or to PDF, for the same purposes

```
> dvi2pdf mainfile.dvi
```

Compiling (the current way)

```
> pdflatex mainfile.tex
```

which outputs the `mainfile.pdf` file.

Advantages

- Generates a PDF in one step
- Handles many image formats (jpeg, png, ...)
- Better typesetting
- Other PDF features (hyperlinks, TOC, ...)

Problems

- Does not handle EPS images
- Does not work with PSTricks

... but who cares?^a

^aActually, **some people may care.**



The result

This is my *first* document prepared in L^AT_EX.

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Typesetting
 - Writing Text
 - Style and Structure
 - Lists
 - Tables and Floats
- 3 Mathematics
- 4 Bibliography
- 5 Other Useful Stuff

The basic rules

- The document contains **text and \LaTeX commands**
- **Paragraphs** are ended by a blank line
- Consecutive **spaces** count as one space
- Sequences of **newline** also count as one
- **Newline** and **tab** counts as a space
- The following are **special characters**:

\$ % ^ & _ { } ~ \



L^AT_EX commands

- Start with a backslash \
- The syntax:

```
\command[optional parameters]{parameters}
```

or just `\command` if they have no parameters. **Warning:** L^AT_EX ignores the space after the command, in this case.

```
You can \textsl{lean} on me!
```

```
Please, start a new line  
right here!\\ Thank you!
```

You can *lean* on me!
Please, start a new line
right here!
Thank you!



Comments

- The character `%` is used for comments

```
This is a % nice comment  
isn't it?
```

This is a isn't it?

Type styles

Type styles are specified by

family roman, sans serif, typewriter

```
\textrm{roman}, \textsf{sans serif},
\texttt{typewriter}
```

series medium, **boldface**

```
\textmd{medium}, \textbf{boldface}
```

shape upright, *italic*, *slanted*, SMALL CAP

```
\textup{upright}, \textit{italic},
\textsl{slanted}, \textsc{small cap}
```

Type sizes

Type sizes can be:

tiny `\tiny`

scriptsize `\scriptsize`

footnotesize `\footnotesize`

small `\small`

normalsize `\normalsize`

large `\large`

Large `\Large`

LARGE `\LARGE`

huge `\huge`

Huge `\Huge`

Document classes

- Every document needs to specify a [class](#)

```
\documentclass[options]{class}
```

- It determines how the document is typeset
- Examples:

[article](#) for scientific articles

[report](#) for technical reports

[book](#) for books

[letter](#) for letters

and many others

Class options

- Some classes support options
- For example:
 - 10pt, 11pt, 12pt,... to set the font size
 - a4paper, letterpaper, ... to set the paper size
 - twocolumn, twoside, ... to set the page format
 - and many other, often class-specific options

```
\documentclass[a4paper,12pt]{article}
```



Packages

- Packages are used to add extra capabilities

```
\usepackage [options] {package}
```

- Some useful packages:

`inputenc` to specify the file encoding

`babel` to add language specific features (e.g. hyphenation)

`graphicx` to include pictures

`hyperref` to include hyperlinks and URLs

`algorithmic` to write pseudocode

and so on...

```
\usepackage [latin1] {inputenc}
```



Title and authors

To produce a title and related info:

```
\begin{document}

\title{document name}
\author{author 1 \and author 2 \and ...}
\date{date text}
\maketitle

...

\end{document}
```

Note: many classes provide their own version of these commands.



The abstract

For articles and reports you may want to produce an [abstract](#):

```
\begin{abstract}
```

```
  This document contains a short introduction to  
  \LaTeX. \LaTeX\ is a typesetting system for  
  people who are constantly frustrated by having  
  to fight the stubbornness of text processors  
  that think they are smarter than you. ...
```

```
\end{abstract}
```



Structuring the document

Most classes contain [sectioning](#) commands:

```
part; chapter; section; subsection; subsubsection;
paragraph; subparagraph;
```

```
\chapter{The Document}
...
\section{Dividing the document}
...
\subsubsection{Subexample}
...
```



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November 24, 2013

An example letter

Dear Sir/Madam

I shall ere long paint to you as well as one can without canvas, something like the true form of the whale as he actually appears to the eye of the whaleman when in his own absolute body the whale is moored alongside the whale-ship so that he can be fairly stepped upon there. It may be worth while, therefore, previously to advert to those curious imaginary portraits of him which even down to the present day confidently challenge the faith of the landsman. It is time to set the world right in this matter, by proving such pictures of the whale all wrong.

It may be that the primal source of all those pictorial delusions will be found among the oldest Hindoo, Egyptian, and Grecian sculptures. For ever since those inventive but unscrupulous times when on the marble panellings of temples, the pedestals of statues, and on shields, medallions, cups, and coins, the dolphin was drawn in scales of chain-armor like Saladin's, and a helmeted head like St. George's; ever since then has something of the same sort of license prevailed, not only in most popular pictures of the whale, but in many scientific presentations of him.

Sincerely,

Pável Pereira Calado

The table of contents

`\tableofcontents` produces a table of contents

`\listoffigures` produces a list of figures

`\listoftables` produces a list of tables

Environments

- Most of the following features are **environments**
- They are defined as:

```
\begin{environment}[options]  
...  
\end{environment}
```



Bullet lists

```

\begin{itemize}
\item this is a
\item bullet list
\item in \latex
  \begin{itemize}
  \item which can
  \item contain other lists
  \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}

```

- this is a
- bullet list
- in \LaTeX
 - which can
 - contain other lists



Enumerations

```

\begin{enumerate}
\item this is a
\item numbered list
\item in \latex
    \begin{enumerate}
    \item which can
    \item contain other lists
    \end{enumerate}
\end{enumerate}

```

- ① this is a
- ② numbered list
- ③ in \LaTeX
 - ① which can
 - ② contain other lists



Descriptions

```

\begin{description}
\item[a line] this is a
\item[another line] description list
\item[etc.] in \latex
  \begin{description}
  \item[and some] which can
  \item[more] contain other lists
  \end{description}
\end{description}

```

a line this is a
 another line description list
 etc. in \LaTeX
 and some which can
 more contain other lists



Tables

Tables are created with the `tabular` environment

```
\begin{tabular}[position]{specs}
```

`pos` table vertical alignment (`t`: top; `b`: bottom; `c`: center)

`specs` column specifications

`l` left-justified column

`c` centered column

`r` right-justified column

`p{width}` paragraph column

`|` vertical line

Within the table `&` separates columns, `\\` creates a new row, and `\hline` and `\cline` create horizontal lines

An example

```
\begin{tabular}{|l|c|p{10em}|}\hline
  \textbf{Name} & \textbf{Age} & \textbf{Comments}\\\hline
  Rodion Romanovich Raskolnikov & 23 & A former student.\\\hline
  Sofya Semyonovna Marmeladov & & Raskolnikov's love.\\\hline
  Dmitri Prokofych Razumikhin & & A poor ex-student.\\\cline{3-3}
  & & He is Raskolnikov's best friend.\\\hline
\end{tabular}
```

Name	Age	Comments
Rodion Romanovich Raskolnikov	23	A former student.
Sofya Semyonovna Marmeladov		Raskolnikov's love.
Dmitri Prokofych Razumikhin		A poor ex-student.
		He is Raskolnikov's best friend.

Floating bodies

- Some tables and figures cannot be broken across pages
- To solve this problem, we define them as `floats`

```
\begin{table}[placement] ... \end{table}
```

```
\begin{figure}[placement] ... \end{figure}
```



Float placement

- We can specify placement as:
 - h (here) to place the float exactly where it is defined
 - t (top) to place the float on the top of the page
 - b (bottom) to place the float on the bottom of the page
 - p (page) to place the float on its own page
 - ! to disregard some space restriction when trying to place the float
- These are specified by [order of priority](#)

```
\begin{table}[htb!] ... \end{table}
```

Warning: \LaTeX will try to place the float according to the specification, but only [if and where it finds room for it](#), so be ready for surprises.

Captions and labels

Floats should have a [caption](#), to described them and a [label](#) to be referenced.

Table~\ref{important} illustrates this point.

```
\begin{table}[!hbt]
  \begin{tabular}{c|c|c}
    a & b & c \\ \hline
    1 & 2 & 2 \\
    2 & 2 & 4 \\
    3 & 2 & 6 \\
  \end{tabular}
  \caption{Important table for
    scientists.}
  \label{important}
\end{table}
```

Table 1 illustrates this point.

a	b	c
1	2	2
2	2	4
3	2	6

Table 1: Important table for scientists.



More about labels

You can also use labels on [sections](#), [chapters](#), [items](#), [equations](#), ...

```
...
```

```
\section{Introduction}
```

```
\label{intro}
```

```
...
```

```
\section{Motivation}
```

```
\label{motiv}
```

```
As explained in Section~\ref{intro} ...
```



Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Typesetting
- 3 Mathematics**
 - Basic Math
 - Writing Equations
 - Matrices
 - Delimiters
- 4 Bibliography
- 5 Other Useful Stuff



Writing math

Math is the reason for \LaTeX existence

It can be typed **in-text**,
like this $ax + by + c = 0$
or on its own, using the
displaymath environment

$$ax + by + c = 0$$

as shown here.

```
It can be typed \emph{in-text},
like this $ax + by + c = 0$ or
on its own, using the
\emph{displaymath} environment
\begin{displaymath}
    ax + by + c = 0
\end{displaymath}
as shown here.
```



Common types

superscript

$$x^{\wedge n} + y^{\wedge\{2^{\wedge n}\}} = z^{\wedge n}$$

$$x^n + y^{2^n} = z^n$$

subscript

$$x_{\wedge i}^{\wedge n} + y_{\wedge j} = z_{\wedge\{i_{\wedge j}\}}$$

$$x_i^n + y_j = z_{i_j}$$

roots

$$\backslash\text{sqrt}\{x\} + \backslash\text{sqrt}[3]\{y\} = \backslash\text{sqrt}\{x + y\}$$

$$\sqrt{x} + \sqrt[3]{y} = \sqrt{x + y}$$

symbols

$$\backslash\alpha \backslash\text{times} \backslash\rho = \backslash\gamma \backslash\text{circ} \backslash\delta$$

$$\alpha \times \rho = \gamma \circ \delta$$

Sums, integrals, and products

```
\begin{displaymath}
  \sum_{i=1}^n
\end{displaymath}
```

$$\sum_{i=1}^n$$

```
\begin{displaymath}
  \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}}
\end{displaymath}
```

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}}$$

```
\begin{displaymath}
  \prod_{\epsilon}
\end{displaymath}
```

$$\prod_{\epsilon}$$

Fractions

```
\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} =  
  \sqrt{\frac{x^2}{k+1}}
```

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = \sqrt{\frac{x^2}{k+1}}$$



The `amsmath` package

```
\usepackage{amsmath}
```

- Part of the *AMS-L^AT_EX* bundle
- Which is a set of extensions developed by the *American Mathematical Society*
- And is included in the standard *L^AT_EX* distributions

Single equations

```
\begin{equation}
  ax + by + c = 0
  \label{findroots}
\end{equation}
```

$$ax + by + c = 0 \tag{1}$$

Notice the equation number on the right. This is equation 1.

Long equations

```
\begin{multline}
(a+b+c+d+e)^2=a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2+e^2\\
+2ab+2ac+2ad+2ae+2bc\\
+2bd+2be+2cd+2ce+2de
\end{multline}
```

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a + b + c + d + e)^2 &= a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2 + e^2 \\
 &+ 2ab + 2ac + 2ad + 2ae + 2bc \\
 &+ 2bd + 2be + 2cd + 2ce + 2de \quad (2)
 \end{aligned}$$

Groups of equations

```
\begin{gather}
(a,b)+(c,d)=(a+c,b+d)\\
(a,b)(c,d)=(ac-bd,ad+bc)
\end{gather}
```

$$(a, b) + (c, d) = (a + c, b + d) \quad (3)$$

$$(a, b)(c, d) = (ac - bd, ad + bc) \quad (4)$$

```
\begin{align}
x+y-z &= 1\\
x-y+z &= 1
\end{align}
```

$$x + y - z = 1 \quad (5)$$

$$x - y + z = 1 \quad (6)$$



Matrices

```

\begin{equation}
  \begin{pmatrix}
    1 & 1 & -1 \\
    1 & -1 & 1 \\
    1 & 1 & 1
  \end{pmatrix}
  \begin{pmatrix}
    x \\
    y \\
    z
  \end{pmatrix} =
  \begin{pmatrix}
    1 \\
    1 \\
    1
  \end{pmatrix}
\end{equation}

```

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

You can also try [bmatrix](#) and [vmatrix](#)

Left and right

```
\left( \sqrt{\frac{x^2}{k+1}} + y \right)
```

$$\left(\sqrt{\frac{x^2}{k+1}} + y \right)$$

Above and below

```
\underbrace{\overbrace{(a+b+c)}^x
            \overbrace{(d+e+f)}^y}_z
```

$$\underbrace{\overbrace{(a+b+c)}^x \overbrace{(d+e+f)}^y}_z$$

Some useful references

[Detexify2](http://detexify.kirelabs.org/classify.html) <http://detexify.kirelabs.org/classify.html>

[The Comprehensive L^AT_EX Symbol List](http://tug.ctan.org/info/symbols/comprehensive/symbols-a4.pdf) <http://tug.ctan.org/info/symbols/comprehensive/symbols-a4.pdf>

[List of Mathematical Symbols](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX/Mathematics/List_of_Mathematical_Symbols)

[http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX/Mathematics#List_of_Mathematical_Symbols](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX/Mathematics/List_of_Mathematical_Symbols)



Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Typesetting
- 3 Mathematics
- 4 Bibliography**
 - The Bibliography
 - $\text{BIB}\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$
- 5 Other Useful Stuff



The bibliography

L^AT_EX provides the `thebibliography` environment to cross-reference publications

```
\begin{thebibliography}{widest-label}  
\bibitem{key1}  
\bibitem{key2}  
\end{thebibliography}
```

`widest-label` is a string of the same size as the widest label in the bibliography list

- The command `\cite{key}` is then used to reference the publications



An example

It is hard to write unstructured and disorganized documents using `\LaTeX~\cite{les85}`. It is interesting to typeset one equation~`\cite[Sec 3.3]{les85}` rather than setting ten pages of running matter~`\cite{don89,rondon89}`.

```
\begin{thebibliography}{9}
\bibitem{les85} Leslie Lamport, 1985. \emph{\LaTeX---A
Document Preparation System---User's Guide and Reference
Manual}, Addison-Wesley, Reading.
\bibitem{don89} Donald E. Knuth, 1989. \emph{Typesetting
Concrete Mathematics}, TUGBoat, 10(1):31-36.
\bibitem{rondon89} Ronald L. Graham, Donald E. Knuth, and
Ore Patashnik, 1989. \emph{Concrete Mathematics: A
Foundation for Computer Science}, Addison-Wesley, Reading.
\end{thebibliography}
```



The result

It is hard to write unstructured and disorganized documents using \LaTeX [1]. It is interesting to typeset one equation [1, Sec 3.3] rather than setting ten pages of running matter [2,3].

Bibliography

- [1] Leslie Lamport, 1985. \LaTeX —A Document Preparation System—User's Guide and Reference Manual, Addison-Wesley, Reading.
- [2] Donald E. Knuth, 1989. Typesetting Concrete Mathematics, TUGBoat, 10(1):31-36.
- [3] Ronald L. Graham, Donald E. Knuth, and Ore Patashnik, 1989. Concrete Mathematics: A Foundation for Computer Science, Addison-Wesley, Reading.

The BIBTEX program

- BIBTEX creates a bibliography from a [bibliographic database](#)
- The command

```
\bibliography{database1,database2}
```

would include the databases in files [database1.bib](#) and [database2.bib](#)

Bibliographic Databases

- A bibliographic database stores useful **bibliographic entries**
- On using a bibliographic database:
 - cons** demands more work to write
 - pros** only done once and is independent of the presentation style

The database files

An example bibliographic entry:

```
@book{knuth:86a,  
  author = {Donald E. Knuth},  
  title = {The \TeX{}book},  
  edition = {third},  
  publisher = {Addison-Wesley},  
  address = {Reading, MA},  
  year = 1986}
```

Other types of entries include [article](#), [inbook](#), [inproceedings](#), [mastersthesis](#), ...

Bibliography Styles

BIBTEX allows choosing a presentation style

```
\bibliographystyle{style}
```

`style` can be one of:

`plain` Entries sorted alphabetically with numeric labels

`alpha` Entries sorted by citation with numeric labels

`apalike` Entries are formatted alphabetically, last name first, each entry having a hanging indentation and no label

among many others.



An example

```
\bibliographystyle{plain}  
\bibliography{database}
```

Compiling with BIB_TE_X

```
> pdflatex mainfile
```

generates a list of `\cite` references in an auxiliary file

```
> bibtex mainfile
```

writes a file containing the formatted references

```
> pdflatex mainfile
```

reads the generated reference file

```
> pdflatex mainfile
```

(yes, again) resolves all references

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Typesetting
- 3 Mathematics
- 4 Bibliography
- 5 Other Useful Stuff
 - Language Support
 - Including Graphics
 - Presentations
 - Finally



The babel package

L^AT_EX may need to be configured for some languages

- Strings such as “Chapter” need to be translated
- Hyphenation rules are different
- Typographic rules are different

We use the `babel` package

```
\usepackage [language] {babel}
```

Adapting to Portuguese

```
1 \usepackage[portuguese]{babel}
2 \usepackage[T1]{fontenc}
3 \usepackage{lmodern}
4 \usepackage[latin1]{inputenc}
```

- 1 to load the Portuguese rules for the babel package
- 2–3 to get the correct fonts (with accents and other symbols)
- 4 to enable reading the *latin-1* encoded source file

The graphicx package

```
\usepackage{graphicx}
```

and to include a picture

```
\includegraphics[options]{filename}
```

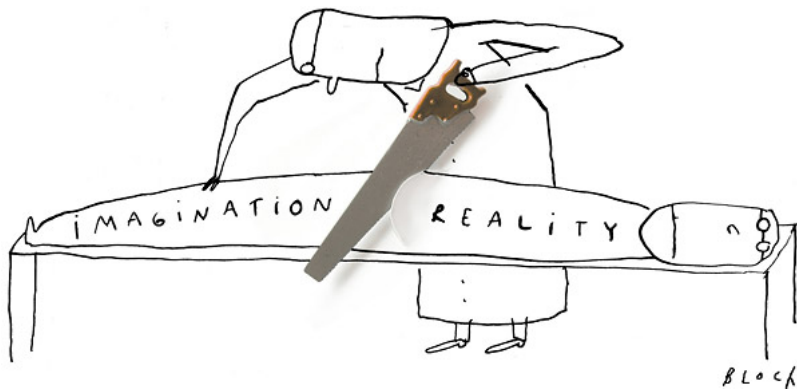
`filename` is a file of type `.png`, `.pdf`, `.jpg`, or `.mps`

`options` can be `width`, `height`, `scale`, `angle`, ...



An example

```
\includegraphics[scale=.5]{serge_bloch}
```



How to build presentations in L^AT_EX

I used the `beamer` package to build this presentation.

It speaks for itself.

`https://www.tug.org/tex/tetex-texmfdist/doc/latex/
beamer/beameruserguide.pdf`



Stuff I did not talk about...

... but that you should look up in a reference text

footnotes, margin notes, end notes, paragraph justification, spacing, quotes, dashes, page styles, page numbering, lengths, including multiple files, more citation styles, building an index, poetry, tabbing, theorems and proofs, boxes, more math features, many other useful packages, making your own packages and classes

and I am probably forgetting something.

Also, check out the [L^AT_EX wikibook](#) at <http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX>, the [StackExchange T_EX site](#) (<http://tex.stackexchange.com/>), and the [list of T_EX editors](#) at Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_TeX_editors).

Part II

Writing your Dissertation

Part II

- 6 Writing a Dissertation
- 7 The Contents
- 8 Using L^AT_EX

References

How to Write a Master's Thesis in Computer Science

<http://cs.fit.edu/~wds/guides/howto/>

How to Organize your Thesis <http://www.sce.carleton.ca/faculty/chinneck/thesis.html>

Outline

- 6 Writing a Dissertation
 - What is a Disseetation?
 - How to Write a Dissertation?
- 7 The Contents
- 8 Using L^AT_EX

The goals of your dissertation/thesis

- Analyze an **issue**
 - Usually an **open question** or an **unexplored idea**
- Explore the issue
 - Ask questions and find the answers
- Present your analysis to an audience
 - This is where the thesis comes in

General Structure

The document should contain (at least) the following items:

- 1 Summary (or abstract)
- 2 Introduction
- 3 Related Work
- 4 Work Done
- 5 Experiments
- 6 Results
- 7 Discussion
- 8 Conclusions
- 9 Future Work

How to write it?

- 1 Determine the purpose of the thesis
- 2 Determine who is the audience
- 3 and Write it
 - List all the ideas you want to include
 - Group related ideas together
 - Arrange them in sections and subsections

A good start

- 1 Start by defining all sections (or chapters)
- 2 Define subsections when they are obvious
 - go no deeper than subsections (for now)
- 3 Write short paragraphs in each section stating what you want to say
 - around 2-4 lines each
- 4 Join the paragraphs, filling in with text
 - create subsections, if appropriate
 - but do not overdo it

The rules for writing

When writing the document you should keep in mind

Parallelism each heading and subheading should preserve parallel structure

- if the first heading is a noun, the second heading should be a noun

Coordination all the information contained in Heading 1 should have the same significance as the information contained in Heading 2

- the same goes for the subheadings (which should be less significant than the headings)

Subordination the information in the headings should be more general, while the information in the subheadings should be more specific

Division each heading should be divided into 2 or more parts

Outline

6 Writing a Dissertation

7 The Contents

- Inside Each Section

8 Using L^AT_EX

The Summary

should answer What did I do, in a nutshell?

function

- summarize the work
- should be written last

contents

- very short context
- what the objectives of the study were
- how the study was done
- what results were obtained (only major findings)
- and the significance of the results (interpretations and conclusions)

Introduction

- should answer
- What is the problem?
 - Why is it important?
 - How will this study advance our knowledge?
- function
- Establish the **context**
 - State the **purpose** of the work
 - Briefly explain the **rationale**, the **approach**, and the **outcomes**
- contents
- Set the context
 - provide general information about the **main idea**
 - explain the situation (so the reader can make sense of the topic and the questions you will ask)

Introduction (cont.)

contents (cont.)

- State why **the main idea is important**
 - tell the reader why she should care and keep reading
 - create an essay that is compelling, clear, and educational
- State your **research question**
 - compose a question or two that clearly communicate **what you want to discover** and **why you are interested** in the topic
- State your **contributions**
- Show a preview of the **results**
- Outline the **structure**
 - state what each section contains
 - or state what you will write

Related Work

should answer

- What did we know about the problem before I did this study?

- What did we do different from previous works?

function

- discuss the relevant **primary research literature**

contents

- description of other works related to the subject
- works should be **organized by their relevant characteristics** (do not simply list the works)
- give more detail to works closely related
- give less detail to works loosely related
- comment on why it is relevant for your work
- comment on **what your work does differently** (or why it is better/worse)



Work Done

- should answer
- How did I solve the problem?
- function
- Describe the work done
- contents
- Description of what you are proposing

Experiments

should answer

function

contents

- How did I test my proposal?
- explain clearly how you carried out your study
- show the methodological details necessary for another person to duplicate your work
- case problems or data studied
 - characteristics and pre-experiment setup
- experimental design
 - variables measured
 - sampling strategy (if any)
 - hypotheses tested
- how the data were analyzed
 - qualitative analyses
 - statistical procedures used (e.g. statistical tests)
 - analyses employed
 - data transformation (e.g. to normalize or equalize variances)

Results

- should answer
 - function
 - What did I find out?
 - contents
 - objectively **present your key results** (i.e. without interpretation)
 - presentation of the results of the experiments
 - using **tables and figures**
 - does not attempt to interpret their meaning
 - but may contain **short comments** on the results



Discussion

- should answer
- What does it mean?
 - Do your results provide answers to your hypotheses?
 - Do your findings agree with what others have shown?
 - What is our new understanding of the problem?
- function
- interpret the results in light of what was already known
- contents
- explanation what the results mean
 - explanation of why they differ from what others have found
 - relation to the objectives and questions raised

Conclusions

- should answer
- What did I do, in a nutshell?
 - What did I achieve?
- function
- present a **concluding summary** of the work
- contents
- **highlight** of our solution
 - overview of the **more relevant results**
 - **restatement of the problem** explored
 - outline of some of its possible causes
 - state **why the results are relevant** to the solution
 - discussion of **open questions**

Future Work

should answer

- What still needs to be done?
- What experiments would you do next?

function

- present **further steps** needed to provide more advances in the knowledge of the problem

contents

- discussion of **where you might look to answer open questions**
- discussion of **other forms of research** you would have to do
- brief enumeration of **possible future developments** of your work



Outline

6 Writing a Dissertation

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- An Example

Your dissertation in L^AT_EX

Now, do all of the above, using L^AT_EX.

Your dissertation in L^AT_EX

Now, do all of the above, using L^AT_EX.

More seriously, [here](#) is an example
(created by Prof. Bruno Martins)

That's it.

Enjoy your new knowledge!